AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 14, 2008

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 12, 2007

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 1, 2007

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 16, 2007

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 9, 2007

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007–08 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 578

Introduced by Assembly Members Blakeslee and Levine

February 21, 2007

An act to amend Section 25783 of the Public Resources Code, to amend Sections 379.6, 2827.9, and 2851 of, and to add Section 321.7 to, the Public Utilities Code, relating to energy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

- AB 578, as amended, Blakeslee. Energy: distributed energy generation: study.
- (1) Existing law requires the Energy Commission State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (Energy Commission), in consultation with the commission Public Utilities Commission, to evaluate the costs and benefits of having an increased number of operational solar energy systems as part of the electrical system.

This bill would delete this requirement.

(2) Under the existing Public Utilities Act, the Public Utilities Commission is required to report to the Legislature by July 15, 2009,

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and triennially thereafter, on the energy efficiency and conservation programs overseen by the commission, as specified.

This bill would require the commission, on or before January 1, 2009 2010, and biennially thereafter, in consultation with the Independent System Operator and the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (Energy Commission) Energy Commission, to study, and submit a report to the Legislature and the Governor, on the impacts of distributed energy generation on the state's distribution and transmission grid. The bill would require the commission to specifically assess the impacts of the California Solar Initiative program, the self-generation incentive program, and the biogas customer-generator net energy metering pilot program.

(3) Existing law requires the Energy Commission, on or before November 1, 2008, in consultation with the commission and the State Air Resources Board, to evaluate specified costs and benefits of providing ratepayer subsidies for renewable and fossil fuel "ultraclean and low-emission distributed generation," as defined.

This bill would delete from this requirement the evaluation of transmission and distribution system improvements.

(4) Existing law requires the commission, in collaboration with the state board, to report certain information relative to the biogas customer-generator net energy metering pilot program to the Legislature on or before December 31, 2008.

This bill would delete from the reporting requirement information relating to the impact of the pilot program on the reliability of the transmission and distribution grid.

(5) Existing law requires the commission, on or before June 30, 2009, and by June 30th of every year thereafter, to submit to the Legislature an assessment of the success of the California Solar Initiative program.

This bill would remove the requirement that the commission include in its assessment how the program affects the operation and reliability of the electrical grid and the peak demand for electricity.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 25783 of the Public Resources Code is
- 2 amended to read:
- 3 25783. The commission shall do all the following:

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(a) Publish educational materials designed to demonstrate how builders may incorporate solar energy systems during construction as well as energy efficiency measures that best complement solar energy systems.

- (b) Develop and publish the estimated annual electrical generation and savings for solar energy systems. The estimates shall vary by climate zone, type of system, size, life cycle costs, electricity prices, and other factors the commission determines to be relevant to a consumer when making a purchasing decision.
- (c) Provide assistance to builders and contractors. The assistance may include technical workshops, training, educational materials, and related research.
- (d) The commission shall annually conduct random audits of solar energy systems to evaluate their operational performance.
- SEC. 2. Section 321.7 is added to the Public Utilities Code, to read:
- 321.7. (a) Notwithstanding Section 7550.5 of the Government Code, on or before January 1, 2009 On or before January 1, 2010, and biennially thereafter, the commission, in consultation with the Independent System Operator and the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission shall study, and submit a report to the Legislature and the Governor, on the impacts of distributed energy generation on the state's distribution and transmission grid. The study shall evaluate all of the following:
- (1) Reliability and transmission issues related to connecting distributed energy generation to the local distribution networks and regional grid.
- (2) Issues related to grid reliability and operation, including interconnection, and the position of federal and state regulators toward distributed energy accessibility.
- (3) The effect on overall grid operation of various distributed energy generation sources.
- (4) Barriers affecting the connection of distributed energy to the state's grid.
- (5) Emerging technologies related to distributed energy generation interconnection.
- (6) Interconnection issues that may arise for the Independent System Operator and local distribution companies.
 - (7) The effect on peak demand for electricity.

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(b) In addition, the commission shall specifically assess the impacts of the California Solar Initiative program, specified in Section 2851 and Section 25783 of the Public Resources Code, the self-generation incentive program authorized by Section 379.6, and the net energy metering pilot program authorized by Section 2827.9.

- SEC. 3. Section 379.6 of the Public Utilities Code is amended to read:
- 379.6. (a) (1) The commission, in consultation with the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, shall administer, until January 1, 2012, the self-generation incentive program for distributed generation resources originally established pursuant to Chapter 329 of the Statutes of 2000.
- (2) Except as provided in paragraph (3), the extension of the program pursuant to Chapter 894 of the Statutes of 2003, as amended by Chapter 675 of the Statutes of 2004 and Chapter 22 of the Statutes of 2005, shall apply to all eligible technologies, as determined by the commission, until January 1, 2008.
- (3) The commission shall administer solar technologies separately, after January 1, 2007, pursuant to the California Solar Initiative adopted by the commission in Decision 06-01-024.
- (b) Commencing January 1, 2008, until January 1, 2012, eligibility for the program pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (a) shall be limited to fuel cells and wind distributed generation technologies that meet or exceed the emissions standards required under the distributed generation certification program requirements of Article 3 (commencing with Section 94200) of Subchapter 8 of Chapter 1 of Division 3 of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations.
- (c) Eligibility for the self-generation incentive program's level 3 incentive category shall be subject to the following conditions:
- (1) Commencing January 1, 2007, all combustion-operated distributed generation projects using fossil fuel shall meet an oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) emissions rate standard of 0.07 pounds per megawatthour and a minimum efficiency of 60 percent. A minimum efficiency of 60 percent shall be measured as useful energy output divided by fuel input. The efficiency determination shall be based on 100-percent load.
- (2) Combined heat and power units that meet the 60-percent 40 efficiency standard may take a credit to meet the applicable NO_x

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emissions standard of 0.07 pounds per megawatthour. Credit shall be at the rate of one megawatthour for each 3.4 million British thermal units (Btus) of heat recovered.

- (3) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a project that does not meet the applicable NO_x emissions standard is eligible if it meets both of the following requirements:
- (A) The project operates solely on waste gas. The commission shall require a customer that applies for an incentive pursuant to this paragraph to provide an affidavit or other form of proof, that specifies that the project shall be operated solely on waste gas. Incentives awarded pursuant to this paragraph shall be subject to refund and shall be refunded by the recipient to the extent the project does not operate on waste gas. As used in this paragraph, "waste gas" means natural gas that is generated as a byproduct of petroleum production operations and is not eligible for delivery to the utility pipeline system.
- (B) The air quality management district or air pollution control district, in issuing a permit to operate the project, determines that operation of the project will produce an onsite net air emissions benefit, compared to permitted onsite emissions if the project does not operate. The commission shall require the customer to secure the permit prior to receiving incentives.
- (d) In determining the eligibility for the self-generation incentive program, minimum system efficiency shall be determined either by calculating electrical and process heat efficiency as set forth in Section 218.5, or by calculating overall electrical efficiency.
- (e) In administering the self-generation incentive program, the commission may adjust the amount of rebates, include other ultraclean and low-emission distributed generation technologies, as defined in Section 353.2, and evaluate other public policy interests, including, but not limited to, ratepayers, and energy efficiency and environmental interests.
- (f) On or before November 1, 2008, the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, in consultation with the commission and the State Air Resources Board, shall evaluate the costs and benefits, including air pollution and efficiency improvements of providing ratepayer subsidies for renewable and fossil fuel "ultraclean and low-emission distributed generation," as defined in Section 353.2, as part of the integrated energy policy report adopted pursuant to Chapter 4 (commencing with Section

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25300) of Division 15 of the Public Resources Code. The State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission shall include recommendations for changes in the eligibility of technologies and fuels under the program, and whether the level of subsidy should be adjusted, after considering its conclusions on costs and benefits pursuant to this subdivision.

- SEC. 4. Section 2827.9 of the Public Utilities Code is amended to read:
- 2827.9. (a) (1) The Legislature finds and declares that a pilot program to provide net energy metering for eligible biogas digester customer-generators would enhance the continued diversification of California's energy resource mix and would encourage the installation of livestock air emission controls that the State Air Resources Board believes may produce multiple environmental benefits.
- (2) The Legislature further finds and declares that the net energy metering pilot program authorized pursuant to this section for eligible biogas digester customer-generators, which nets out generation charges against generation charges on a time-of-use basis, furthers the intent of Chapter 7 of the Statutes of 2001, First Extraordinary Session, by facilitating the implementation of energy efficiency programs in order to reduce consumption of energy, reduce the costs associated with energy demand, and achieve a reduction in peak electricity demand.
 - (b) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:
- (1) "Electrical corporation" means an electrical corporation, as defined in Section 218.
- (2) (A) "Eligible biogas digester customer-generator" means a customer of an electrical corporation that meets both of the following criteria:
- (i) Uses a biogas digester electrical generating facility with a capacity of not more than one megawatt that is located on or adjacent to the customer's owned, leased, or rented premises, is interconnected and operates in parallel with the electric grid, and is sized to offset part or all of the eligible biogas digester customer-generator's own electrical requirements.
- (ii) Is the recipient of local, state, or federal funds, or who self-finances pilot projects designed to encourage the development of eligible biogas digester electrical generating facilities.

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(B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), up to three large biogas digester electrical generating facilities with a generating capacity of more than one megawatt and not more than 10 megawatts, otherwise meeting the criteria of this section, shall be eligible for participation in the pilot program.

- (3) "Eligible biogas digester electrical generating facility" means a generating facility used to produce electricity by either a manure methane production project or as a byproduct of the anaerobic digestion of biosolids and animal waste.
- (4) "Net energy metering" means measuring the difference between the electricity supplied through the electric grid and the difference between the electricity generated by an eligible biogas digester customer-generator and fed back to the electric grid over a 12-month period as described in subdivision (e). Net energy metering shall be accomplished using a time-of-use meter capable of registering the flow of electricity in two directions. If the existing electrical meter of an eligible biogas digester customer-generator is not capable of measuring the flow of electricity in two directions, the eligible biogas digester customer-generator shall be responsible for all expenses involved in purchasing and installing a meter that is able to measure electricity flow in two directions. If an additional meter or meters are installed, the net energy metering calculation shall yield a result identical to that of a time-of-use meter.
- (c) Every electrical corporation shall file with the commission a standard tariff providing for net energy metering for eligible biogas digester customer-generators, consistent with this section. Every electrical corporation shall make this tariff available to eligible biogas digester customer-generators upon request, on a first-come-first-served basis, until the combined statewide cumulative rated generating capacity used by the eligible biogas digester customer-generators in the service territories of the three largest electrical corporations in the state reaches 50 megawatts. An eligible biogas digester customer-generator shall be eligible for the tariff for the life of the eligible biogas digester electrical generating facility.
- (d) Each net energy metering contract or tariff shall be identical, with respect to rate structure, all retail rate components, and any monthly charges, to the contract or tariff to which the same customer would be assigned if the customer was not an eligible biogas digester customer-generator, except as set forth in

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subdivision (e). Any new or additional demand charge, standby minimum 2 customer charge, monthly interconnection charge, or other charge that would increase an 3 4 eligible biogas digester customer-generator's costs beyond those of other customers in the rate class to which the eligible biogas 6 digester customer-generator would otherwise be assigned are 7 contrary to the intent of this legislation, and shall not form a part 8 of net energy metering tariffs.

- (e) The net energy metering calculation shall be made by measuring the difference between the electricity supplied to the eligible customer-generator and the electricity generated by the eligible customer-generator and fed back to the electric grid over a 12-month period. The following rules shall apply to the annualized metering calculation:
- (1) The eligible biogas digester customer-generator shall, at the end of each 12-month period following the date of final interconnection of the eligible biogas digester customer-generator's system with an electrical corporation, and at each anniversary date thereafter, be billed for electricity used during that period. The electrical corporation shall determine if the eligible biogas digester customer-generator was a net consumer or a net producer of electricity during that period. For purposes of determining if the biogas digester customer-generator was a net consumer or a net producer of electricity during that period, the electrical corporation shall aggregate the electrical load of a dairy operation under the same ownership, including, but not limited to, the electrical load attributable to milking operations, milk refrigeration, and water pumping located on property adjacent or contiguous to the dairy. Each aggregated account shall be billed and measured according to a time-of-use rate schedule.
- (2) At the end of each 12-month period, where the electricity supplied during the period by the electrical corporation exceeds the electricity generated by the eligible biogas digester customer-generator during that same period, the eligible biogas digester customer-generator is a net electricity consumer and the electrical corporation shall be owed compensation for the eligible biogas digester customer-generator's net kilowatthour consumption over that same period. The compensation owed for the eligible biogas digester customer-generator's consumption shall be calculated as follows:

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(A) The generation charges for any net monthly consumption of electricity shall be calculated according to the terms of the tariff to which the same customer would be assigned to or be eligible for if the customer was not an eligible biogas digester customer-generator. When those eligible biogas digester customer-generators are net generators during any discrete time-of-use period, the net kilowatthours produced shall be valued at the same price per kilowatthour as the electrical corporation would charge for retail kilowatthour sales for generation, exclusive of any surcharges, during that same time-of-use period. If the eligible biogas digester customer-generator's time-of-use electrical meter is unable to measure the flow of electricity in two directions, paragraph (4) of subdivision (b) shall apply. All other charges, other than generation charges, shall be calculated in accordance with the eligible biogas digester customer-generator's applicable tariff and based on the total kilowatthours delivered by the electrical corporation to the eligible biogas digester customer-generator. To the extent that charges for transmission and distribution services are recovered through demand charges in any particular month, no standby reservation charges shall apply in that monthly billing cycle.

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- (B) The net balance of moneys owed shall be paid in accordance with the electrical corporation's normal billing cycle.
- (3) At the end of each 12-month period, where the electricity generated by the eligible biogas digester customer-generator during the 12-month period exceeds the electricity supplied by the electrical corporation during that same period, the eligible biogas digester customer-generator is a net electricity producer and the electrical corporation shall retain any excess kilowatthours generated during the prior 12-month period. The eligible biogas digester customer-generator shall not be owed any compensation for those excess kilowatthours.
- (4) If an eligible biogas digester customer-generator terminates service with the electrical corporation, the electrical corporation shall reconcile the eligible biogas digester customer-generator's consumption and production of electricity during any 12-month period.
- (f) No biogas digester electrical generating facility shall be eligible for participation in the tariff established pursuant to this section, that has not commenced operation by December 31, 2009.

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A biogas digester customer-generator shall be eligible for the tariff established pursuant to this section, only for the operating life of the eligible biogas digester electrical generating facility.

- (g) No biogas digester electrical generating facility that is subject to the best available control technology (BACT) requirements shall be eligible for participation in the tariff pursuant to this section unless the biogas digester electrical generating facility has installed the best available control technology as required by the regional air pollution control district at the time of installation to ensure the maximum feasible reductions in toxic and criteria pollutants.
- (h) On or before December 31, 2008, the commission, in collaboration with the State Air Resources Board, shall report to the Legislature all of the following information:
- (1) The impact of the pilot program on emissions of air pollutants.
 - (2) The impact of the pilot program on ratepayers.
- SEC. 5. Section 2851 of the Public Utilities Code is amended to read:
- 2851. (a) In implementing the California Solar Initiative, the commission shall do all of the following:
- (1) The commission shall authorize the award of monetary incentives for up to the first megawatt of alternating current generated by solar energy systems that meet the eligibility criteria established by the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission pursuant to Chapter 8.8 (commencing with Section 25780) of Division 15 of the Public Resources Code. The commission shall determine the eligibility of a solar energy system, as defined in Section 25781 of the Public Resources Code, to receive monetary incentives until the time the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission establishes eligibility criteria pursuant to Section 25782. Monetary incentives shall not be awarded for solar energy systems that do not meet the eligibility criteria. The incentive level authorized by the commission shall decline each year following implementation of the California Solar Initiative, at a rate of no less than an average of 7 percent per year, and shall be zero as of December 31, 2016. The commission shall adopt and publish a schedule of declining incentive levels no less than 30 days in advance of the first decline in incentive levels. The commission may develop incentives based upon the output of electricity from the system, provided those

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incentives are consistent with the declining incentive levels of this paragraph and the incentives apply to only the first megawatt of electricity generated by the system.

- (2) The commission shall adopt a performance-based incentive program so that by January 1, 2008, 100 percent of incentives for solar energy systems of 100 kilowatts or greater and at least 50 percent of incentives for solar energy systems of 30 kilowatts or greater are earned based on the actual electrical output of the solar energy systems. The commission shall encourage, and may require, performance-based incentives for solar energy systems of less than 30 kilowatts. Performance-based incentives shall decline at a rate of no less than an average of 7 percent per year. In developing the performance-based incentives, the commission may:
- (A) Apply performance-based incentives only to customer classes designated by the commission.
- (B) Design the performance-based incentives so that customers may receive a higher level of incentives than under incentives based on installed electrical capacity.
- (C) Develop financing options that help offset the installation costs of the solar energy system, provided that this financing is ultimately repaid in full by the consumer or through the application of the performance-based rebates.
- (3) By January 1, 2008, the commission, in consultation with the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, shall require reasonable and cost-effective energy efficiency improvements in existing buildings as a condition of providing incentives for eligible solar energy systems, with appropriate exemptions or limitations to accommodate the limited financial resources of low-income residential housing.
- (4) (A) Notwithstanding subdivision (g) of Section 2827, the commission shall require time-variant pricing for all ratepayers with a solar energy system. The commission shall develop a time-variant tariff that creates the maximum incentive for ratepayers to install solar energy systems so that the system's peak electricity production coincides with California's peak electricity demands and that-assures ensures that ratepayers receive due value for their contribution to the purchase of solar energy systems and customers with solar energy systems continue to have an incentive to use electricity efficiently. In developing the time-variant tariff, the commission may exclude customers participating in the tariff

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from the rate cap for residential customers for existing baseline quantities or usage by those customers of up to 130 percent of existing baseline quantities, as required by Section 80110 of the Water Code. Nothing in this paragraph authorizes the commission to require time-variant pricing for ratepayers without a solar energy system.

- (B) The commission may delay implementation of time-variant pricing pursuant to subparagraph (A), until the effective date of the rates subject to the next general rate case of the state's three largest electrical corporations, scheduled to be completed after January 1, 2009.
- (C) If the commission delays implementation of time-variant pricing pursuant to subparagraph (B), ratepayers required to take service under time-variant pricing between January 1, 2007, and January 1, 2008, shall be given the option to take service under flat-rate or time-variant pricing and shall be credited any difference between the time-variant rate and the otherwise applicable flat rate, provided there is a flat-rate pricing schedule for which the ratepayer would qualify if the ratepayer had not installed the solar energy system.
- (b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), in implementing the California Solar Initiative, the commission may authorize the award of monetary incentives for solar thermal and solar water heating devices, in a total amount up to one hundred million eight hundred thousand dollars (\$100,800,000).
- (c) (1) In implementing the California Solar Initiative, the commission shall not allocate more than fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000) to research, development, and demonstration that explores solar technologies and other distributed generation technologies that employ or could employ solar energy for generation or storage of electricity or to offset natural gas usage. Any program that allocates additional moneys to research, development, and demonstration shall be developed in collaboration with the Energy Commission to ensure there is no duplication of efforts, and adopted by the commission through a rulemaking or other appropriate public proceeding. Any grant awarded by the commission for research, development, and demonstration shall be approved by the full commission at a public meeting. This subdivision does not prohibit the commission from continuing to allocate moneys to research, development, and

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demonstration pursuant to the self-generation incentive program for distributed generation resources originally established pursuant to Chapter 329 of the Statutes of 2000, as modified pursuant to Section 379.6.

- (2) The Legislature finds and declares that a program that provides a stable source of monetary incentives for eligible solar energy systems will encourage private investment sufficient to make solar technologies cost effective.
- (3) On or before June 30, 2009, and by June 30th of every year thereafter, the commission shall submit to the Legislature an assessment of the success of the California Solar Initiative program. That assessment shall include the number of residential and commercial sites that have installed solar thermal devices for which an award was made pursuant to subdivision (b) and the dollar value of the award, the number of residential and commercial sites that have installed solar energy systems, the electrical generating capacity of the installed solar energy systems, the cost of the program, total electrical system benefits, including the effect on electrical service rates, environmental benefits, the progress made toward reaching the goals of the program, whether the program is on schedule to meet the program goals, and recommendations for improving the program to meet its goals. If the commission allocates additional moneys to research, development, and demonstration that explores solar technologies and other distributed generation technologies pursuant to paragraph (1), the commission shall include in the assessment submitted to the Legislature, a description of the program, a summary of each award made or project funded pursuant to the program, including the intended purposes to be achieved by the particular award or project, and the results of each award or project.
- (d) (1) The commission shall not impose any charge upon the consumption of natural gas, or upon natural gas ratepayers, to fund the California Solar Initiative.
- (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any charge imposed to fund the program adopted and implemented pursuant to this section shall be imposed upon all customers not participating in the California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) or family electric rate assistance (FERA) programs as provided in paragraph (2), including those residential customers subject to the rate cap required by Section 80110 of the Water Code for existing baseline

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 quantities or usage up to 130 percent of existing baseline quantities of electricity.

- (3) The costs of the program adopted and implemented pursuant to this section may not be recovered from customers participating in the California Alternate Rates for Energy or CARE program established pursuant to Section 739.1, except to the extent that program costs are recovered out of the nonbypassable system benefits charge authorized pursuant to Section 399.8.
- (e) In implementing the California Solar Initiative, the commission shall ensure that the total cost over the duration of the program does not exceed three billion three hundred fifty million eight hundred thousand dollars (\$3,350,800,000). The financial components of the California Solar Initiative shall consist of the following:
- (1) Programs under the supervision of the commission funded by charges collected from customers of San Diego Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Edison Company, and Pacific Gas and Electric Company. The total cost over the duration of these programs shall not exceed two billion one hundred sixty-six million eight hundred thousand dollars (\$2,166,800,000) and includes moneys collected directly into a tracking account for support of the California Solar Initiative and moneys collected into other accounts that are used to further the goals of the California Solar Initiative.
- (2) Programs adopted, implemented, and financed in the amount of seven hundred eighty-four million dollars (\$784,000,000), by charges collected by local publicly owned electric utilities pursuant to Section 387.5. Nothing in this subdivision shall give the commission power and jurisdiction with respect to a local publicly owned electric utility or its customers.
- (3) Programs for the installation of solar energy systems on new construction, administered by the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission pursuant to Chapter 8.6 (commencing with Section 25740) of Division 15 of the Public Resources Code, and funded by nonbypassable charges in the amount of four hundred million dollars (\$400,000,000), collected from customers of San Diego Gas and Electric Company, Southern

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- California Edison Company, and Pacific Gas and Electric Company pursuant to Article 15 (commencing with Section 399).